REMARKS

Claims 7, 12 and 13 are presented for consideration, with Claim 7 being independent.

Claim 1 has been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art.

Claims 7, 12 and 13 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103, as obvious over Weigl '945. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of Applicant's invention relates to a detection method for detecting a plurality of different substances contained in the specimen using a same label. The method comprises sequentially the steps of flowing the specimen having a first substance and a second substance through a detecting element having a first substance trapping portion immobilizing a first substance trapping body for specifically trapping and immobilizing the first substance contained in the specimen, a second substance trapping portion immobilizing a second substance trapping body for specifically trapping and immobilizing the second substance contained in the specimen, with the second substance being different from the first substance, and a channel, with the first substance trapping portion being different from the second substance trapping portion, and flowing a solution containing the label through the first substance trapping portion and the second substance trapping portion, with the label comprising a first group of label molecules bonded with a third substance trapping body capable of specifically acting on the first substance and a second group of label molecules bonded with a fourth substance trapping body capable of specifically acting on the second substance.

Claim 1 includes the additional steps of flowing a solution for generating the signal from the label through the first substance trapping portion immobilizing the label such that a first layer of aqueous solution flow through the first substance trapping portion and a second layer of aqueous solution flow through the second substance trapping portion coexist while a third layer of alcoholic solution flow exists between the first layer of aqueous solution flow and the second layer of aqueous flow and that the solution for generating a signal from the label forms the first layer of aqueous solution flow, to thereby acquire a signal from the first substance trapping portion, and flowing a solution for generating a signal from the label to the second substance trapping portion immobilizing the label such that a first layer of aqueous solution flow through the first substance trapping portion and a second layer of aqueous solution flow through the second substance trapping portion coexist while a third layer of alcoholic solution flow exists between the first layer of aqueous solution flow and the second layer of aqueous solution flow and that the solution for generating a signal from the label forms the second layer of aqueous solution flow, to thereby acquire a signal from the second substance trapping portion.

In accordance with Applicant's invention, a high performance detection method for detecting a plurality of different substances can be provided.

As discussed in the Request for Reconsideration filed August 11, 2010, the Weigl patent relates to an extraction device that uses an extraction stream to remove particles contained in a sample stream. With reference to Figure 4, a sample stream 2 enters through an inlet 1, and an extraction stream 4 enters through an inlet 5. Particles of different sizes exist in the product

streams 25, 28 and 31, and the by-product stream 12 in the feed exit chamber 10 contains products of small, medium and large sizes.

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, Weigl does not teach or suggest, detecting a plurality of different substances contained in a specimen having different first and second substances, by flowing the specimen through a detecting element having a first substance trapping portion for specifically trapping and immobilizing the first substance and a second substance trapping portions for trapping and immobilizing the second substance. In Weigl, on the other hand, reporter beads are used for measuring, with each reporter bead comprising a substrate bead having a plurality of at least one type of fluorescent reporter molecules immobilized thereon (see column 36, lines 27-29). In Weigl, however, the particles are not trapped and immobilized by rather extracted by the extraction stream (see, e.g., the microchannel configuration (in Figure 1) and the T-sensor channel configuration (in Figure 13)).

Accordingly, it is submitted that Weigl fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicant's invention as set forth in Claim 7 of Applicant's invention, and thus reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103 is respectfully requested.

Thus, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claim 7 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 12 and 13 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

Applicant respectfully requests an interview in the subject application. Applicant's undersigned representative will contact the Examiner within one week's time for the purpose of scheduling the interview.

CONCLUSION

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Scott D. Malpede/

Scott D. Malpede
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

SDM/rnm

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